

## Introduced by Senator Escutia

February 22, 2005

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An act relating to the environment.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 838, as introduced, Escutia. Global environmental quality.

The existing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency, as defined, to prepare, or cause to be prepared by contract, and certify the completion of, an environmental impact report on a project, as defined, that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment, or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect.

This bill would make findings and declarations regarding the importance of global environmental quality, and would declare the intent of the Legislature to establish California as a catalyst in building a renewed national commitment to protecting the global environment by initiating activities in specified potential areas of international cooperation.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (1) Despite decades of environmental progress and improved
- 4 public awareness, strong scientific consensus regarding indicia
- 5 such as climate change, loss of wildlife, and toxic pollution,
- 6 reveals that the degradation of the earth continues.

1 (2) Increasing world population, spreading industrialization,  
2 and rising consumption contribute to enormous pressures on our  
3 air, water, and land.

4 (3) In our increasingly interdependent world, the impact of  
5 environmental deterioration on public health, safety, and  
6 economic well being cross all borders.

7 (4) Environmental threats do not recognize national  
8 boundaries, and no state or country alone can confront these  
9 pressures on our ecosystems and natural resources.

10 (5) To protect the global environment, California, along with  
11 the rest of the nation, must recognize the empirical data regarding  
12 the challenges we face and maximize international cooperation in  
13 anticipating and preventing a decline in global environmental  
14 quality.

15 (6) The complex and interconnected nature of environmental  
16 deterioration requires new forms of cooperation between the  
17 nation and other countries to prevent those problems from  
18 becoming unmanageable.

19 (7) California is in a unique position to be able to share its  
20 scientific and technical expertise in ways that benefit the nation,  
21 as well as other countries.

22 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to  
23 establish California as a catalyst in building a renewed national  
24 commitment to protecting the global environment by initiating  
25 activities in potential areas of international cooperation,  
26 including all of the following:

27 (1) Environmental education.

28 (2) Solid waste management.

29 (3) Wastewater management.

30 (4) Vehicle emissions control.